Have you been down to the woods today?

New Ash Green Woodlands Group

Pond Wood
18 March and 15 April 2017
Have you been down to the woods today?

It’s laurel popping and pond management time.

With my ear muffs and gloves I’m ready to get started.

Martin eyes up this specimen.

Martin explaining what needs to be done.
Have you been down to the woods today

Simon modelling the latest in pond wear...

...and finishes off the look with long colour coordinated gloves
Have you been down to the woods today?

Branches and logs find their way into the water...

It is amazing what Simon pulls out from the pond!

and the falling leaves rot creating a wonderful aroma!
Have you been down to the woods today?

Martin and Peter make a start on felling this tree...

Mark will dispose of the branches pulled from the pond.

Jerry and his famous heron pose.

which will allow more light onto the pond.
Have you been down to the woods today with cake and candles?

Simon still working in the pond while everyone else enjoys a tea break.

Martin felling another.

Celebrating Carole’s 60th birthday.

With cake and candles.
Have you been down to the woods today?

Thalia, Xanthe and their mum

Enjoying a well-earned cup of tea

Anyone need a hard drive?

A pond snail
Have you been down to the woods today

Whilst litter picking Xanthe and her mum find this skull

After some debate...

We think the skull belonged to a rat
Have you been down to the woods today?

Who lives in a house like this!

Mark takes the branches removed from the pond and disposes of them.
Have you been down to the woods today

One month later on the 15th April the pond is looking a lot better, but still requires more work
Have you been down to the woods today

Getting the tools ready for laurel popping

Martin clearing the pile of rotting leaves

A cup of tea and hot cross bun to get us going

A resident of the pond
Have you been down to the woods today…

A lot of laurel has been coppiced which means a lot of digging is also involved to remove the root.

Carole makes a start on removing this large laurel

...and the roots come away intact

Using the ‘tree popper’ is so much quicker and easier…
Have you been down to the woods today

The small laurel I tackle, but this has also been coppiced

So after a lot of effort and a couple of hours later, with the help of Carole and Beth...

we finally remove the huge root
Have you been down to the woods today

The ever patient...

Just there mum, don’t stop!

and beautiful Barley

I like your designer jeans Ian!